

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 were pending. Claims 1-8 and 10-20 were rejected under either § 102 or § 103 of 35 U.S.C., over either US. 485,854 (Woodruff), U.S. 3,555,616 (Parks), or U.S. 3,902,850 (Lehnert).

Claim 9 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but the action indicated that claim 9 would be allowable if amended to be in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Applicants have amended the independent claims to recite, “a first pair of opposing fins include a first number of fin slots which divide each fin of the first pair of fins into a first number of fin components, and wherein a second pair of opposing fins include a second number of one or more fin slots which divides each fin of the second pair of fins into a second number of fin components different from the first number of fin components.” Support is provided in original claim 9, FIG. 5, and in paragraph [0043], which states that “the geometry and number of slots 144 and placement of the slots 144 relative to one another are subject to considerable variation.”

Although the original language of claim nine could properly have been construed to require two or more slots in the first pair of fins and one or more slots in the second pair of fins, the amendment makes this broader construction more clear. The first number of slots is not limited to only two, and the second number of slots is not limited to only one, so long as the first and second numbers of slots are different from each other. Therefore, Applicants submit that it is not necessary to include all of the features of claim 9 into claims 1, 13 and 15.

Applicants submit that the feature of claim 8 (curved sidewall portion) is not necessary for the patentability of the amended independent claims 1, 13 and 15, because none of the cited prior art, taken alone or in combination, includes the above recitations that have been added to

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claims 1, 13 and 15. Therefore, the features of the intervening claim 8 are not incorporated into the independent claims.

Claims 3 and 14 are canceled without prejudice, as being redundant in view of the amendments to the respective base claims. Claims 2, 4, 5 and 8 are amended to read consistently with the amendments to their respective base claims.

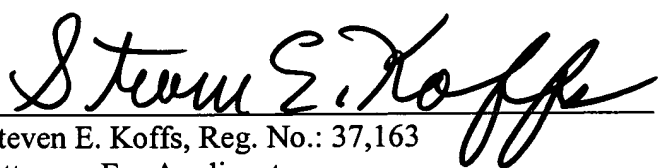
Claims 21-23 are added. Support for claims 21-23 is provided by FIG. 4.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account 04-1679.

Respectfully submitted,

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